(Estate Office Area) was less than four lakhs, therefore, for the purpose of House Rent Allowance, Chandigarh could not qualify for classification as B-2 city.

(c) The Fourth Pay Commision have also recommended for continuance of the existing scheme of classification of cities for the purpose of House Rent Allowance and Compensatory (City) Allowance based on decennial census figures, which is also the thinking in Government.

Setting up of a Mineral Export Development Fund

@1709. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is being considered for setting up of a mineral export development fund; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Misuse of Royalty Concessions

1710. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is misuse of concessions offered in respect of royalty received from foreign companies;

(b) if so, how many cases have been brought to light during the assessment year 1987-88 and 1988-89; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent such misuse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No specific case of misuse of concessions offered under section 80-0 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 in respect of royalty received from foreign companies has come to notice so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Representation received from unions/associations in Alipore Mint.

1711. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation dated the 31st October, 1987 from the different unions and associations functioning at Alipore Mint; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and

(b) Yes, Sir. In the Memorandum dated 31-10-87, the Steering Committee of the Unions have conveyed their apprehension about likely retrenchment of workers in case the Government decided to go ahead with the modernisation of the Mints, involving *inter alia*, entrustment of the work of manufacture of stainless steel coin blanks to any agency, other than the Mints and discontinuation of Manufacture of Aluminium-Magnesium 5 paise and 20 paise coins. The main points raised in the memorandum would be taken into account while taking a final decision on the proposals for the modernisation of the Mints.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1277 transferred from the 5th August, 1988.